



Internship Opportunities for Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund Recipients

June 1, 2014



We are currently in the middle of our annual Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF) Campaign, an effort that is hugely successful in providing continuing education for hundreds of youth in northern New Mexico. We also are in the third year of a Laboratory program that complements the LAESF. Since 2012 we have been able to reach out to LAESF recipients and offer them internships—an early career experience of a lifetime. The scholarship recipients are paired with a Laboratory organization and mentors who foster their interests, stay in touch with them even after they enter school and encourage them to return to the Laboratory to continue their mentor-protégé relationship.

The benefits of the program are two-fold. First, students going to college with scholarship money receive hands-on practice in their discipline, often giving them a leg up on their college course understanding, ability to interact with professors and potential to do well and act more maturely in the college atmosphere. The second benefit is to our Laboratory. The young interns represent one of our most diverse workforce pools, bringing their unique ideas and an intellectual curiosity that often results in scientific innovation when paired with an experienced mentor.

Forty-one percent of the Laboratory workforce is native to New Mexico. With the Lab's and the community's support of the LAESF and the internship program, the interns become our future workforce pipeline. In fact, 31 percent of our students return to a full-time position after graduation, with 53 percent of those coming back for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. This is a wonderful chance for our current talent to shape, prepare and encourage the Lab's talent of the future and continue our mission support to the nation.

- *Richard Marquez*

Los Alamos National Laboratory

www.lanl.gov

(505) 667-7000

Los Alamos, NM

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